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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, April 8, 2005, at 10 a.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2005

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable LISA MURKOWSKI, a Senator from the State of Alaska.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by guest Chaplain Rev. David G. Thabet, of Huntington WV.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

PRAYER

Let us pray.

O God, the Source and Giver of all wisdom, whose will is good and gracious, and whose law is truth, we pray that You so guide and bless the Congress of this Nation, and especially the United States Senate, that they enact such laws as shall be according to Your will.

Grant them the spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice, so that with clear minds and steadfast purpose they may faithfully serve in their offices. And we pray that the people of this Nation support their elected officials with understanding and encouragement.

May those assembled here always be conscious of the needs of those persons under their care, and may they always have the courage to do what is right.

Finally, we ask that You instill Your Spirit in the body of those here that they may have the strength to accomplish the tasks before them this day and throughout the session.

This we ask in Your Name.
Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable LISA MURKOWSKI led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 7, 2005.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable LISA MURKOWSKI, a Senator from the State of Alaska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Ms. MURKOWSKI thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, today we will be in for a period of morning business. Last night, we were unable to complete work on the State Department authorization bill. Therefore, on Monday, we will turn to the

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief. We did make progress, however, on the State Department bill, and it is still hoped that we can reach an agreement to limit amendments on that bill, and therefore make it possible for us to complete it.

That would allow the chairman and ranking member to work together to determine how much work remains on the bill prior to reaching final passage. In the meantime, and under the consent agreement, we will begin consideration of the appropriations bill at 3 p.m. on Monday. As announced last night, there will be a vote on Monday evening at approximately 5:15. That vote will likely be on a district judge, although it is possible that additional votes will occur on amendments to the supplemental at that time.

I will have further announcements on the Monday schedule at the close of business today. Let me say, for all of our colleagues, turning to the supplemental appropriations bill next week means we will have a very busy week, with lots of votes and potentially one or more evening sessions.

With that, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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